

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 111339 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3875

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2252

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: A BLOW TO SELF- CENSORSHIP

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. THE WEEKLY POLITYKA, WHICH WAS EXEMPTED FROM PRECENSORSHIP IN MARCH IN AN EXPERIMENT TO TEST THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SELF- CENSORSHIP SYSTEM, HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED IN AN UNSIGNED TRYBUNA LUDU ARTICLE FOR PUBLISHING A TWO- PART ARTICLE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF POLAND' S PRE- WAR ARISTOCRACY. THE POLITYKA ARTICLE, ENTITLED " CORONET UNDER THE HAT" WHICH APPEARED IN THE APRIL 21 AND 28 EDITIONS, DID NOT IGNORE THE HISTORIC EXCESSES OF POLAND' S LAND- OWNING GREAT FAMILIES OR THE FACT THAT SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS SOUGHT A MORE COMFORTABLE LIFE IN THE WEST AFTER WORLD WAR II; BUT IT PORTRAYED THE ARISTOCRATS WHO REMAINED IN POLAND IN A

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GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC AND NON- IDEOLOGICAL FASHION.

2. TRYBUNA LUDU IN ITS MAY 8 EDITION TOOK SHARP EXCEPTION TO THE POLITYKA ARTICLES. IN AN UNSIGNED ATTACK IT CALLED THE ARTICLES " IRRESPONSIBLE AND DELUSIVE". THE CHIEF DEFECT OF THE ARTICLES, ACCORDING TO TRYBUNA, WAS THEIR NEGLECT OF THE ARISTOCRACY' S ROLE IN SLOWING POLISH POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND IDEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND IN MANIPULATING POLITICAL EVENTS BETWEEN THE WARS IN SUPPORT OF THE SANACJA REGIME. SINGLING OUT THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF POLITYKA FOR HAVING COMMITTED AN " ERROR", TRYBUNA SAID THE TRANSGRESSION WAS THE MORE SERIOUS BECAUSE THE WEEKLY " WHICH BELONGS TO THE CIRCLE OF PARTY PERIODICALS HAS ACCUSTOMED ITS READER-SHIP TO SERIOUS TREATMENT OF THAT WHICH IT PUBLISHES".

3. ONE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF THE TRYBUNA CRITICISM WAS THE APPEARANCE OF A RUMOR IN WARSAW THAT POLITYKA EDITOR RAKOWSKI, GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBERAL- PRAGMATIC WING OF THE PARTY, HAD BEEN REMOVED. HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY OF THE BASIC PARTY ORGANIZATION AT POLITYKA HAS DENIED THIS AND CLAIMS THAT RAKOWSKI REMAINS IN OFFICE AND IN GOOD SPIRITS.

4. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT IMBROGLIO, THE SHARP REACTION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DAILY IS DOUBTLESS A BLOW TO THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS OF THE SELF-CENSORSHIP EXPERIMENT. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

5. FOR MUNICH: BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THE EMBASSY HOPES THAT IN REPORTING THE TRYBUNA- POLITYKA CONTROVERSY, RFE WILL AVOID UNDUE EMPHASIS ON THE QUESTION OF THE ACCURACY OF THE POLITYKA ARTICLES TREATMENT OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF POLAND' S ARISTOCRATIC FAMILIES, WHOSE SITUATION HERE COULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY TREATMENT THAT PARTY OFFICIALS COULD INTERPRET AS OPEN EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY FROM THE WEST. END CONFIDENTIAL.
DAVIES

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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